

Upfront

Two Invitations



Gary Gold / '70

George M. Philip earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's in social studies at UAlbany, and a J.D. from Western New England School of Law. In 1971, he joined the staff of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, which, with 400,000 members and \$105 billion in assets, is one of the 10 largest public retirement funds in the United States. Philip held a number of high-level positions with the system, including those of executive director and chief investment officer, until his recent retirement. His appointment to head the University temporarily was announced in October 2007 by SUNY Interim Chancellor John B. Clark.

Dear Friend:

A number of years ago, I was invited – challenged, really – to become involved with the University at Albany. Although I'm a proud graduate, I hadn't given much thought to volunteering my time and talent with the University until then-President H. Patrick Swygert called one day and asked me why I wasn't involved. Frankly, I couldn't think of a good answer!

I came to the University as a freshman in 1965 and met my wife, Sandra, also an undergraduate at the time, the following year. We've been married 38 years; two of our sons are UAlbany graduates. (The third went to SUNY Geneseo.) As you can see, I strongly believe in public education, and I have a real passion for the University at Albany.

That's why I said "yes" to volunteering for the University in the early 1990s. I was appointed to chair the University Council and also served as an *ex-officio* director of The University at Albany Foundation. In those posts, and as a director of the State University Research Foundation, I've had the satisfaction of witnessing, first-hand, the growth of UAlbany's academic, research and athletic programs – and a concurrent surge of pride in our great University.

Now, as interim president of the University at Albany, I extend two invitations to you. First, I invite you to read this issue of *UAlbany*, which focuses on alumni who enrich our lives through entertainment. In addition to learning about your former classmates' accomplishments and ambitions, you'll discover how their experiences at the University contributed to their career success and personal satisfaction – and prepared them to become better citizens of the world.

Second, I invite you to lend your considerable talents to UAlbany. Like our fellow graduates highlighted in these pages, you have skills and initiative, and innovative ideas for using both. Participation in the Alumni Association is just one of the many ways you can benefit the University. (To learn about volunteer opportunities, please visit the association's Web site at <http://www.albany.edu/alumni>.) With more than 138,000 UAlbany graduates throughout the world, the possibilities for service to the University are endless!

I hope you'll accept both of my invitations. Reading *UAlbany* will strengthen your pride in our University. And serving UAlbany will reinforce your conviction that the University is well worth the investment of your time and talent.

Sincerely yours,

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Interim President
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